

2024 Annual Report:

Women & Gender Equity Advisory Committee

DR. JACQUIE GAHAGAN, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH, MSVU
CHAIR, WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 28, 2025.

Presentation Overview

1. Information about
members and meetings

2. Committee priorities,
actions, and outcomes

Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee

Committee met monthly,
except November

Meetings were virtual except
July & December

Current Committee members

- Dr. Jacquie Gahagan, Chair
- Doreen Redmond, Vice Chair
- Councillor Virginia Hinch
- Councillor Nancy Hartling
- Cheryl Copage-Gehue
- Liz Fraser
- Rhiannon Makohoniuk
- Sherryll Murphy
- Hannah Jackson

Former Committee members

- Councillor Becky Kent
- Former Councillor Pam Lovelace
- Jane MacKay-Nesbitt
- Maggie Hua
- Sonia Ikheloa
- Zoey Zhou

2024 Work Plan Priorities

Priority 1: Health, safety, wellness and quality of life facing women, with particular emphasis on marginalized women.

(a) Addressing gender-based violence

(b) Addressing mental health for women in HRM

(c) Addressing public safety risk for women in HRM, including road safety

Priority 2: Women's involvement in HRM governance, particularly Indigenous and racialized women.

Priority 3: Housing and food security for women in HRM.

Priority 1: Health, safety, wellness and quality of life facing women, with particular emphasis on marginalized women.

Staff presentations

- Overview of the Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Program -*Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety.*
- HRM's Approach to Harm Reduction - *Max Chauvin, Director, Housing & Homelessness and Alyssa Buchanen, Housing Coordinator, Housing & Homelessness.*

Priority 2:

Women's
involvement in
HRM governance,
particularly
Indigenous and
racialized women.

Staff presentations

- **Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) practices at Halifax Regional Municipality** - *Caroline Hemstock, Immigrant Services Advisor and Tracey Jones Grant, Manager, Diversity & Inclusion*
- **Review of the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Campaign School and Leadership Summit** - *Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Baylee Brown, Coordinator, 2SLGBTQ+/Gender Equity, Jerid Watton, Coordinator, Outreach & Research Indigenous and Karen Bernard (external presenter)*
- **Administrative Order 2023-001-GOV, Respecting Public Appointments to Committees of Council and External Boards** - *Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk and Annie Sherry, Public Appointments Coordinator*
- **Overview of Policymaking at HRM** – *Cathy Collett, Senior Policy Advisor*

Priority 2:
Women's
involvement in
HRM governance,
particularly
Indigenous and
racialized women.

***Motions passed**

January 11, 2024

*Motion approved that the Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee write a letter on the Committee's behalf to Mayor Savage and Halifax Regional Council regarding the importance of Gender Based Analysis Plus in the 2024/25 Budget Process.

September 19, 2024

*Motion approved that the Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee write a letter on the Committee's behalf to encourage the newly elected Mayor and Regional Council to participate in Gender-Based Analysis (GBA+) training.

December 5, 2024

*Motion approved that the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee recommend that Executive Standing Committee request a staff report with respect to requesting that the Mayor write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request the definition of "spouse" in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act be amended to adopt gender neutral language.

*Motion approved that the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee request the Chair write a letter to Halifax Regional Council and the Chief Administrative Officer requesting policies be forwarded to the Committee for review from a Sex and Gender Based Analysis Plus lens.

Priority 3:

Housing and
food security
for women in
HRM

Staff and
external
presentations

- **Overview of Planning & Development at HRM:** *Telina Debly, Planner II and Dave Paterson, Principal Planner*
- **Overview of Affordable Housing in HRM:** *Dr. Ren Thomas, Associate Professor, Dalhousie School of Planning*
- **Affordable Housing from a GBA+ Lens:** Affordable Housing Programs Administered by HRM - *Dave Paterson, Principal Planner, Hannah Peters, Planner I and Alexandria Wilson, Planner II*

Other Actions Taken

February 1, 2024

Motion approved that the Women's Advisory Committee approve the 2024 Work Plan as circulated and recommend that the Executive Standing Committee review and approve the Women's Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan and by May 1, 2024, the Committee will review and make amendments to the 2024 Work Plan.

May 27, 2024

Motion approved that the Women's Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report respecting amendments to Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV, Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality to include gender equity considerations and the Committee name be changed to "**Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee**".

July 4, 2024

Motion approved that the Women's Advisory Committee approve the 2024 Work Plan as revised and recommend that the Executive Standing Committee review and approve the Women's Advisory Committee Revised 2024 Work Plan.

Thank you!

To HRM staff, especially:

- Tracy Jones Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Carla John, Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion
- Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist
- Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

Thank you
&
questions
